Withdrawal of Chetak and Cheetah helicopters

2473. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased:

(a) whether Government propose to withdraw Chetak and Cheetah helicopters from the Army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the new versions of helicopters proposed to be put in their place?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, because the existing fleet of helicopters is of 1960s and 1970s vintage and, hence, inadequate for the present operational requirement of the Indian Army.

(c) Based on the qualitative requirements framed by the Indian Army, the acquisition process in terms of the Defence Procurement Procedure for procurement of new helicopters compliant with these qualitative requirements, is under way.

Increasing the capacity of Navy

†2474. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an assessment of the needs of the Navy for increasing its capacity for the security of the sea board of the country and assessment of the needs of the Navy has been made;

(b) if so, the arrangement being made regarding availability of different kinds of ships by 2020; and

(c) whether any plan for manufacturing ships in the country by developing the capacity of ships manufacturing, is under consideration; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Augmentation and modernization of the Navy is being undertaken in a phased manner.

(c) Indigenous manufacturing of ships and other platforms is already taking place.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.